A Leſſon for all true Chriſtians

Which being well obſerved by old and young, } Great comfort in it at the laſt you'l find,
practiſed with hand, and heart, and tongue; } Then mark it well, and bear it in your mind,

Tune of, the Letter for a Chriſtian Family. By *I. C.*

ALl you whoſe mind is be high & heavenly bent,
Obſerve Gods lawes, & ſtrive for to repent,
Bear you in mind theſe lines I ſhall unfold
And prize them better far then pearl or gold.

BEar thou in mind that Chriſt di'd for thy ſin,
Upon the Croſs thy precious ſoul to win,
Be frequent ſtill in reading of his word,
which cuts down ſin as with a two edg'd ſword.

COnſider well the bitter pains & death, earth,
Our Saviour Chriſt hath ſuffered on the
Unto the croſs they nail'd his hands & feet,
And for our ſin he ſhed his blood moſt ſweet.

DEfer no time, but pray continually,
Thy ſins againſt thee ſtill for vengeance cry;
Pray to the Lord thy ſins may be forgiven,
And that thy Soul may live with Chriſt in
Heaven.

ETernal God if it be thy bleſſed will,
Comfort all thoſe that now are ſick or ill;
By land or Sea relieve them of their pain,
Reſtore them to their former health again.

FOr bear to ſwear you children that are young,
You parents pray correct them for their wrong
And bring them up in fear to ſerve the Lord,
For fear he ſcourge them with his heavy rod.

GReat oaths in vain too many people ſwear,
The Lord in pieces wilfully they tear,
ſtrange imprecations they too common uſe,
with ſuch delights they do themſelves abuſe

HOw many falſe reports abroad do flye
People likewiſe are given much to lye;
And to diſſemble now with one another,
A man cannot tell how to truſt his brother.

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BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

148
99.

IN many places people sudden dye,
Others again lye sick in bed do lye,
Lord give them grace in time for to repent,
And for their grievous sins for to lament.

KEep thou in mind the Judgement day will come,
When thou shalt answer for what thou hast done
whilst thou remainest here on the earth
Therefore prepare thee for the hour of death.

LEt not malicious thoughts possess thy breast,
Nor wicked actions in thy conscience rest;
In any case do not thy Neighbour wrong,
Neither by thought, word, deed, nor yet by tongue.

MAny there be that follow drunkenness,
& make themselves far worse then any beast
& many when that they should go to church
Do in an Ale-house or a Tavern lurch.

NOr do they heed, but spend their means in vain,
which should their wives & children maintain;
until they have consum'd their whole estate
And ne'r repent before it be too late.

OThers there be likewise do rob & kill,
And many a man & womans blood do spill,
For money to maintain their grievous sin,
And think not on the errors they run in.

PItty it is they have no better care,
But bring their souls and bodies in a snare,
Their bodies here to dye in woful shame,
Their souls to suffer in eternal flame.

QUere thou after Gods word which is so pure
Also the Gospel which will still endure,
Seek thou the place whereas thy Soul may rest,
Amongst the Angels whom the Lord hath blest.

REgard not thou the sin of covetousness,
Seek for to right the widdow and fatherless
Help to relieve those that in prison lye,
Also remember man that thou must dye.

SEt not thy mind upon Adultery,
But from the beauty of lewd women flye;
We find in Scripture that it is forbid;
Then mind it well when as you do it read.

TAke heed that you do not false measures use,
With such deceit do not thy self abuse,
Too many use it now, the more's the pitty,
In every place in Country, Town and City.

UNdone are many by this false deceit,
Let me advise such people and intreat,
To leave it off, & mark what I shall say
'Twill rise against thee at the judgement day

WHen thou before thy maker shalt appear,
To give account, and eke thy self to clear,
If well thou'st done, then happy shalt thou be
And live with Christ in joy eternally.

XAmple take I pray both old and young,
By those few lines that's penned in this song.
Bear it in mind I pray every one,
And think on it when I am dead and gone.

YOung men & maidens love your parents dear
Honour them still, and seek the Lord to fear
O mind your bibles more then all your pride
& then be sure the Lord will be your guide.

ZEalous and faithful to each other prove,
Live not in hatred, but in perfect love,
Peace is a vertue passeth gold so pure,
Lord grant it may amongst us still endure.

& Now at last for to conclude and end,
These lines to all true Christians I do send,
To read them over, and of them take a view,
What here is pen'd you'l find for to be true.

FINIS.

Printed for F. Coles, T. Vere, J. Wright, and J. Clark.